



...College is possible for all Montana students.

Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

Montana GEAR UP believes that postsecondary education is possible for all Montana students, regardless of economic background. Montana GEAR UP supports schools, students, and their families to increase students' college and career readiness through academic preparedness, postsecondary planning, and financial aid knowledge so that they may succeed in their education beyond high school.

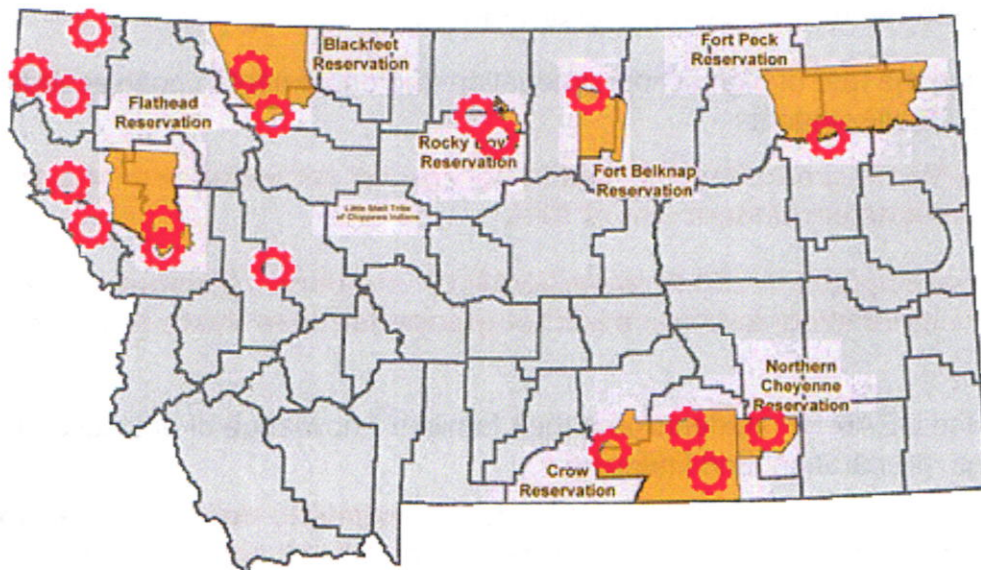
The GEAR UP Difference

GEAR UP differs from other college access programs by providing services to entire grades/cohorts of students; serving students all the way through their first year in college; and providing services for parents as well as professional development for teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators creating a college-going culture school and community wide. Montana has received three GEAR UP grants (1999, 2005, and 2011), as well as two partnership grants through Salish Kootenai College and Fort Peck Community College.

Montana GEAR UP Schools

Montana GEAR UP partners with up to 18 middle and receiving high schools in low-income communities to increase the number of students prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Montana GEAR UP was funded in 2011 by a seven-year, \$28M grant from the U.S. Department of Education and is administered through the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

Montana GEAR UP Schools



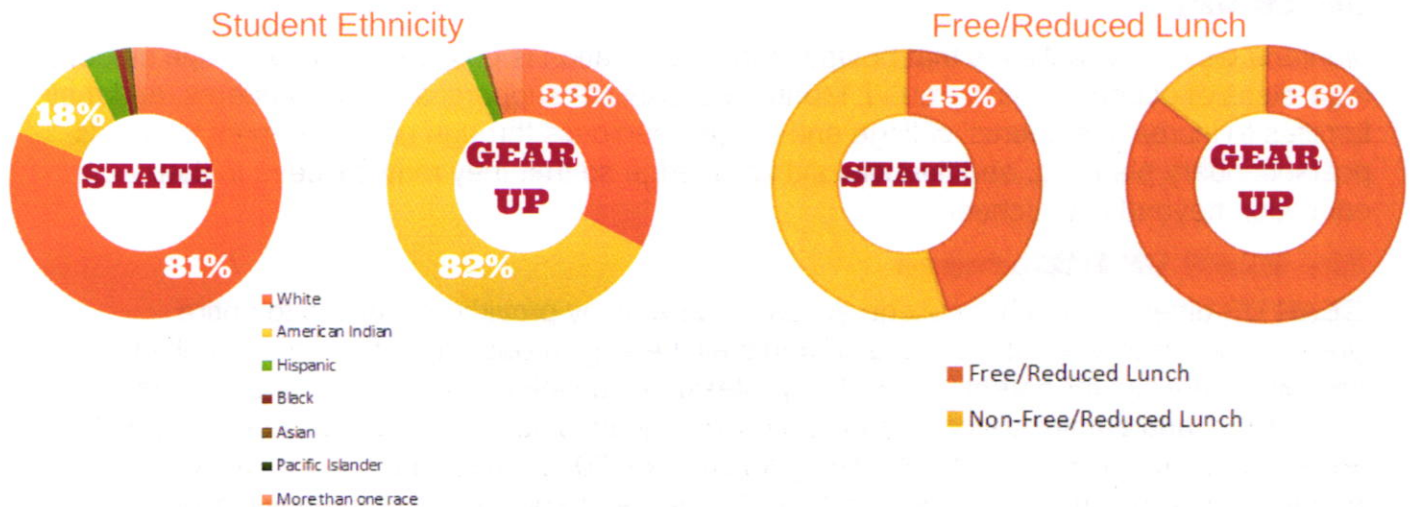
2011 Grant Schools

Arlee | Box Elder | Browning | Eureka | Hardin | Harlem
Heart Butte | Lame Deer | Libby | Lincoln | Lodge Grass | Pryor | Rocky Boy
St. Ignatius | St. Regis | Thompson Falls | Troy | Wolf Point



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Montana GEAR UP Students



Goals, Services, and Outcomes

GOAL 1 - Increase the academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education of GEAR UP students

- 8th and 9th grade students who participated in at least 100 hours of GEAR UP supported academic rigor services were 17% more likely to complete Algebra I than those who participated in 50 hours or less.
- Students with at least 50 GEAR UP supported academic rigor service hours per year were 12% more likely to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

GOAL 2 - Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students

- 68% of 2015 GEAR UP graduates enrolled in college fall semester after senior year as compared to the state enrollment rate of 52%.
- Students who participated in 150 or more GEAR UP supported dropout prevention service hours were 12% more likely to be on track for graduation than those who participated in 50 hours or less.

GOAL 3 - Increase GEAR UP students' and their families' knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing

- There was a 17.9% increase in GEAR UP educators believing their students would obtain at least some college education between the '12-'13 and '15-'16 school years.
- FAFSA completion among GEAR UP students increased 13% between the '11-'12 and '15-'16 school years.

Montana GEAR UP | 2500 Broadway St | Helena, MT 59601

406-444-0056 phone | 406-444-0425 fax

MTGEARUP@montana.edu | mus.edu/gearup